

IN MEMORIAM
Pedro W. Wygodzinsky
1916–1987

Dr. Pedro W. Wygodzinsky, world authority on Reduviidae, Dipsocoroidea, Simuliidae, Microcoryphia, and Thysanura, and Curator of Entomology at the American Museum of Natural History, died at a nursing home in Middletown, New York, on January 27, 1987, after several years of declining health, at age 70. Born in Bonn, Germany on October 5, 1916, of Czechoslovak parents, he recalled an early interest in *Helix* snails, at the age of 4 or 5, that was nurtured by his mother, and “from there to insects was a small step.” Attending the University of Basel, in Switzerland, from 1935–1939, he received his Doctorate degree under the direction of Prof. Eduard Handschin. His first research and publications dealt with the Diplura and Thysanura. He was a linguist and published his scientific papers in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

In 1941, Wygodzinsky decided to emigrate to Brazil, first working in the Malaria Service. From 1943 to 1948 he was employed as Systematic Entomologist with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rio de Janeiro. The first of his numerous publications on Reduviidae appeared in 1943. In 1948, in a move to Argentina, he was appointed



Pedro W. Wygodzinsky, taken at Tucumán, Argentina, in 1951 (Edward S. Ross photo).

Chief of the Department of Entomology, Instituto de Medicina Regional, at the University of Tucumán, and from 1959–1962, as Professor of Entomology on the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences at the National Museum of Buenos Aires. In 1949, he commenced a series of papers on Argentine and Neotropical Simuliidae. Wygodzinsky held two Guggenheim Fellowships to study in the United States, in 1955–56, and 1960–61, at which time he was associated with Dr. Robert L. Usinger, at the University of California, Berkeley.

Appointed an Associate Curator in Entomology at the American Museum of Natural History in 1962, Wygodzinsky was promoted to Curator in 1966. He was very dedicated to his research, paying no attention to an eight hour working day, which permitted his publishing over 250 papers that included several thousand of his own detailed line drawings. Wygodzinsky made available to the English reading public one of the works of Willi Hennig through his translation from the German of “The Diptera Fauna of New Zealand as a Problem in Systematics and Zoogeography,” published as Pacific Insects Monograph Number 9 in 1966.

This warm man with the sparkle of humor always in his eyes was much admired by students and colleagues, many of whom became his good friends. A man of great personal and professional integrity, Pedro (Petr, Pete, Wygo) is fondly remembered for his humanity as well as for his accomplishments.

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